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URBAN DISTRICT
OF
PAIGNTON

Annual Report
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
— HEALTH —
FOR 1946

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
PAIGNTON.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE PAIGNTON URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the public health of Paignton and the work of your Public Health Department for the year 1946.

For the first time since 1940: peace-time public health requirements called for additional attention. In a town subject to a sudden renaissance as a holiday resort, public health progress might easily not have kept pace in meeting the needs of revived and increased catering accompanied by shortage of construction material and housing, and with excessive overcrowding. On the other hand, one had the benefit of war-time experience and discoveries should trouble in public health have occurred. In fact, no trouble did occur, the year proving particularly healthful, both for the increased resident population of 25,300 and for our visitors; and this despite a summer less sunny than average.

The number of Births, at 366, is an increase of 26 on last year, and increases the rate to 14.46 per thousand of population. One hopes that the marked decline in illegitimate births is a happy indication of more stable social and family Christian life.

Deaths numbered 412—one more than last year—giving a slightly reduced rate of 16.28 per thousand of population. Deaths from acute illnesses diminished: Cancer (71 deaths) is higher, but less than in the year 1941. Glancing over statistics for the past eight years, one notices the great range of variation in the number of cancer deaths—from as low as 46 to a maximum of 75. The Cancer Death Rate for Paignton does not show any increase, on an average, for many years past, although there has been an increase in recent years over the Country as a whole.

Infectious disease was less prevalent than in 1945. There was no large outbreak. For this year the Isolation Hospital was not called upon to relieve any difficulties of isolation and treatment of even minor infectious disease, as there was no occurrence among summer visitors or hotel and catering staffs; but this latter function of an Isolation Hospital should be kept well in mind as an established provision for our town as a holiday centre under peace-time conditions. Isolation accommodation in the future, established centrally at some little distance from Paignton, under the National Health Service Act, may be no disadvantage compared with having that provision within the Urban District; but it is essential that accommodation should be adequate for all infectious diseases (requiring isolation) in a holiday resort during the crowded season.

Opportunity was taken of making inspections of the moorland water catchment areas. As a result, a greater assurance was obtained that periodic unsatisfactory water samples were due to animal grazing and climatic variations, and that there was no established human source of danger to cause anxiety. It is never practicable to eliminate animal and bird contamination on large water-catchment areas, against which a large dilution plus long storage are the first safeguards—and may be, indeed, the only purification safeguards which are necessary.

In Section “E,” the Chief Sanitary Inspector has commented upon the increase in meat condemned because of tuberculosis. It has to be added that the increased percentage is not unfavourable compared with that for England and Wales as a whole. The figures for Paignton have generally been lower than the average and are not now higher than the average for last year. Less than 5 per cent. of Devon herds are tubercle-free by test. It may be that the greater urge and opportunity in the County—as in the Country generally—to increase the number of tubercle-free herds has resulted in more doubtful animals being sent for slaughter. Farmers and Stock-breeders have no alternative—it is the law that all cattle, including casualties, be slaughtered at the recognised centres.

May I call attention to the large number of children, under five years, protected against Diphtheria during the year—379, in all.

It is a renewed pleasure to express my appreciation and thanks to the professional—Nursing and Sanitary—and Clerical staffs of the Department. I am additionally indebted to Mr. Thick for a Report upon Refuse Collection and Disposal and Salvage, and the notes upon Council Housing and Billeting—all being matters for which he is solely responsible.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. DICK

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

MEDICAL—

A. DICK, M.D. (State Med.), D.P.H. (Glas. Univ.).

Medical Officer of Health, and Medical Officer for Isolation Hospitals.

†HELEN BUMSTEAD, M.R.C.S, L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer for Isolation Hospitals and Infectious Diseases.

NURSING—

MISS I. FREEMAN,

Matron, Isolation Hospital, King's Ash.

Whole-time Nurses :—

Senior Nurse : MISS E. MORGAN (Fever Certif.)

MISS C. HARTLEY, S.R.N. (Fever Certif.)

SANITARY—

FREDK. J. THICK, Certif. S.I.E.B. (London), Meat Certif.
F.S.I.A.

Chief (Senior) Sanitary Inspector.

Meat Inspector.

S. H. BONE, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Certif. M.S.I.A.

Additional (Deputy) Sanitary Inspector.

J. B. JONES, Cert. S.I.B., Meat Certif.

Additional Sanitary Inspector (commenced July, 1946).

Assistant Sanitary Inspector :—

‡G. E. LOVATT, Cert. S.I.B. (1943).

CLERICAL—

S. E. R. AUTHERS, Chief Clerk.

MRS. K. M. GOWMAN.

MISS M. P. RILEY.

OTHER—

Ambulance and Disinfector :—

C. J. TURPIN.

†Part-time. ‡Absent H.M. Forces.

Section A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

1—

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,177
Population—Census 1939 (September)	...	...	...	...	...	...	22,510
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1945	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,310
Registrar-General's estimated resident population, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,300
Number of inhabited houses :—1945, 8,520 ; 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,570
Rateable value, 31st March, 1947	...	...	...	...	...	...	£249,486
Estimated sum represented by Penny Rate 1946/47	...	...	...	...	...	...	£995

2—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

					TOTAL.	M.	F.
Live Births	...	...	...	...	366	193	173
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	327	171	156
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	39	22	17
Still Births	...	...	...	...	15	7	8
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	14	6	8
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	14.46
Birth Rate (Still Births)	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.59

					TOTAL.	M.	F.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	412	170	242
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.28

Standardised death rate for Paignton :—

Comparability Factor not available for 1946.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy
and child-birth :—

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	1
From other causes	...	...	...	...	1

	TOTAL.	M.	F.
Death rate of infants under 1 year of age	16	10	6
Legitimate 	15	10	5
Illegitimate 	1	0	1
All Infants per 1,000 live births 			43.71
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			45.87
Deaths from Measles (all ages) 		0	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 		0	
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) ...		0	

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers 	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever 	0	0
Scarlet Fever 	0	0
Whooping Cough 	0	0
Diphtheria 	1	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system 	5	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis 	2	2
Syphilitic Disease 	1	0
Influenza 	1	0
Measles 	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-Encephalitis 	0	0
Acute Infantile Encephalitis 	0	0
Cancer of Buc. cav. and Oesoph (M) Uterus (F) ...	2	6
Cancer of stomach and Duodenum 	4	4
Cancer of Breast 	0	9
Cancer of all other sites 	20	26
Diabetes 	2	4

Intra-cranial vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	23	44
Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	49	69
Other Diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	3	11
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	7
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	7
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	0	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	1
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	4	4
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	4	10
Puerperal and Post. Abort. Sepsis	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other Maternal cases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	0	2
Con. mal. Birth inj. infant Dis.	...	...	...	...	10	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	0
Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	1	0
Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	3	6
All other causes	...	...	...	...	24	18
TOTAL ALL CAUSES					170	242
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : Total					10	6
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	10	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	0	1

Section B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

- (a) **Laboratory Facilities** continue to be given at the Devon County Laboratory, Dix's Field, Exeter, by arrangement with Devon County Council through the County Medical Officer, and have been satisfactory. Specimens have been submitted from the Isolation Hospital and Clinics and from Private Practitioner sources as a public health measure.
- (b) **Ambulance Services**—(a) There is one Ambulance for general medical and surgical cases, administered and staffed by the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division, and an Army Ambulance was received by the Brigade in 1945 as an addition, pending a new Ambulance being obtained. One extra whole-time Driver was appointed in August, 1946, making **three** whole-time Drivers. A contribution is being made by the Council towards this Service.
- (b) The Ambulance for the movement of cases of infectious disease is provided by the Council. The Ambulance Driver is also in control of the Disinfector at the Isolation Hospital, and carries out disinfection and disinfestation there. One of the above St. John Ambulance drivers does relief duty on the Infectious Disease Ambulance.
- (c) **Nursing in the Home.**—There is no change in this Service, which continues to be so ably carried out by the District Nurses of the District Nursing Association.
- (d) **Treatment Centres and Clinics.**—The Central School Clinic and Dental Clinic, operated by the Devon County Council at Midvale Road, for school children and expectant mothers, continues.
- Part of this Clinic is equipped as a **Cleansing Clinic** and is shared by the Council and Devon County Council.
- Treatment is given for impetigo and verminous conditions, including Scabies.—(Particulars of the work done are given under Section "F.")
- (e) **Hospitals.**—There is no change.
- Maternity and Child Welfare.**—These Services continue to be administered by Devon County Council. The Medical Officer is Dr. F. Muriel Morris, O.B.E., M.D. The Health Visitor is Miss E. H. Walters. Both Dr. Morris and Miss Walters have taken a large part in bringing to the notice of mothers the

advantages of diphtheria immunisation, and large numbers (see Section “F”) of young children have been protected at the Welfare Centre by Dr. Morris.

The Welfare Centre has continued to enjoy the support and enthusiasm of the voluntary helpers, to whose Honorary Secretary (Mrs. K. Fletcher) I am indebted for the following Report :—

PAIGNTON INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

SECRETARY'S REPORT for the Year ending 31st December, 1946

During the year under review the Centre was opened for 95 Sessions. The attendances for the year were as follows :—

MOTHERS ...	3,741	BABIES ...	2,961	TODDLERS ...	1,059
Mothers on Register ...	...	...	...	...	494
Babies on Register ...	...	...	...	...	390
Toddlers on Register ...	...	...	...	...	154
New Mothers ...	...	...	...	...	273
Babies ...	...	...	...	...	241
New Toddlers ...	...	...	...	...	48

Section C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1—[i] **Water.**—No new sources of supply are in operation.

(a) Investigations have shown that the causes of unsatisfactory samples have been animal—not human—contamination, influenced by certain climatic conditions. No human source of contamination has been found affecting the private spring water supplying a small number of houses at Beechdown. Recommendations have been made regarding the latter.

(b) Figures kindly furnished by the Water Engineer show that the quantity is adequate.

(ii) The supply is piped after storage and filtration, with terminal chlorination at points where the main pipe-lines leave the Reservoirs.

- (iii) Neither the moorland nor the lowland supplies have plumbo-solvent action. Lead has not been detected in the chemical analyses and the hydrogen-ion concentration has always showed a neutral or slightly alkaline re-action.
- (iv) Investigations of the moorland catchment area have been carried out, and of climatic conditions and animal grazing over the area as factors affecting water purity.
- (v) Almost all dwellings in the District have direct supply. There are very few supplied by means of stand-pipes—only about 0.25 per cent.—but this leaves out of account several farms and other dwellings in rural parts of the District where the piped main supply is not available.
- [ii] **Drainage and Sewerage.**—There are no extensions to record. Complaints of flooding in a certain area are already known, and the remedy awaits post-war attention.

2— **Stream Pollution.**—There is nothing to report.

3— **Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—There has been no further complaint of fly nuisance. Transitory objectionable odours come from nearly all Refuse Tips, which cause complaint on occasion from those living to leeward of the wind over the Tip.

REPORT ON REFUSE COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE BY MR. F. J. THICK.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The lorries now in use for the collection of refuse consist of three Dennis and three Thornycroft, and one Thornycroft lorry is used for the collection of salvage and pig swill.

No new lorries were purchased during the year. It will be necessary, however, in the very near future to consider the question of providing additional lorries to meet with increasing demands, especially during the Summer Season, and to replace some of the older lorries whose day of usefulness is nearly ended.

Pre-war, an additional lorry was always used during the Summer Season, in addition to increased Loaders, to collect twice-weekly from houses and more frequent collections from Boarding Houses, Hotels, Cafés, Fish Shops, etc. With the present fleet it is impossible to do this, and only in a very few instances has it been possible to give more than once-a-week collection.

The number of loads collected was 4,004½, approximating 7,938.99 tons during the year.

Refuse Disposal.

All refuse collected is taken to Clennon Valley and disposed of by means of controlled tipping. Material for covering is obtained from Brown's Field. Here, again, the question of an additional lorry will shortly have to be considered, because in addition to the one lorry in use, belonging to the Council, another lorry has to be hired, and at the present high costs is a very expensive item.

Salvage.

I give hereunder details of salvage collected and income received therefrom for 1946 :—

MATERIAL.							AMOUNT RECEIVED		
							£	s.	d.
Paper	...	...	...	...	...	...	767	0	8
Selected Paper	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	0	9
Rags	...	...	...	...	...	...	25	4	9½
White Rags	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	19	9
Cloth	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	9	9
Wool	...	...	...	...	...	...	36	12	0
Carpet	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	14	7
String	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	7
Aluminium	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	18	2
Brass	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	2	8
Hair	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	13	6
Copper	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	19	9½
Pewter	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Light Iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	3	0
Iron	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	18	6
Bottles	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	15	11
Jam Jars	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	8½
Gramophone Records	...	...	...	...	...	...	0	7	6½
Lead	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	9
							£930 15 5		

The income for the previous years was as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
1941	...	...	...	...	...	666	3	7
1942	...	...	...	...	...	2101	18	11
1943	...	...	...	...	...	2173	4	1½
1944	...	...	...	...	...	1391	19	6½
1945	...	...	...	...	...	931	17	3½

It will be observed that the income for 1946 was slightly less than 1945, but not to be compared with 1942 or 1943, when the income was over the £2,000 mark.

Generally speaking, I do not think our experience here in the falling off is much different from other places.

The considerable decrease, however, is to be regretted, and it is earnestly hoped that the householders will realise their responsibilities in this matter, and assist not only the Council, but the Country, in this very necessary reclamation.

One, of course, receives complaints that the Collectors do not do all they might regarding separation during collection, but I venture to suggest that if there are "accidents" now and again it by no means accounts for the considerably diminishing collection.

Pig Waste.

The amount of Pig Waste collected during the year amounted to 434 tons, 5 cwts. 3 qrtrs., and money received for sales totalled £756 6s. 0d., compared with 1945 :—445 tons 12 cwts, 2 qrtrs. collected and £946 11s. 10d. taken in sales.

This, again, shows a decrease in collection and sales, but here it must be remembered that we have a lot of increasing competition with private collectors who collect for their own pigs and chicken.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector has compiled the following details of inspections carried out by the Additional Sanitary Inspectors and himself. Inspections by the Medical Officer of Health are also included, and also the work of disinfection.

(a) Drainage.

New Houses—Drainage has been inspected and tested in connection with 49 new houses or bungalows. One hundred and sixteen visits have been paid for this purpose and 106 tests applied,

Old Houses or Buildings—The drainage of 52 houses has been tested. Twenty-six were found to be defective, 11 of which were re-laid and 15 repaired. Work has also been carried out in connection with the installation of sanitary fittings, baths, w.c.'s, lavatory basins, etc.

For all work under this heading, 73 visits have been paid and 63 tests applied.

Visits have been paid in connection with 36 choked drains and 6 private sewers. Thirty-six Notices were served, 24 of which were written and 12 verbal.

The question of choked private sewers, which used to be known as combined drains, presents many difficulties, and considerable time is taken in ascertaining the owners of houses affected (frequently anything from 20 to 40) in order to assess equally the cost of clearing.

Four Cesspools were disconnected, and connected to the Council's sewer.

(b) Disinfection.

Two hundred and thirty-five rooms, representing 122 houses, were disinfected for the following reasons :—

Notifiable Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	18
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	24
Verminous Conditions	...	...	...	...	...	33
Other Cases	...	...	...	...	...	30

The following is a list of bedding and other articles passed through the steam disinfector at the Isolation Hospital :—

					FROM ADJOINING	
					PAIGNTON.	DISTRICTS.
Mattresses	...	...	...	195		9
Pillows	...	...	...	369		14
Blankets	...	...	...	154		19
Other Articles	...	...	...	154		5
Library Books	...	...	...	38		0

(c) Shops Act.

Twenty-five Shops were inspected. Notices were served in connection with Sanitary Accommodation (3), Cleansing (2), and Water Supply (1). All Notices were complied with.

(d) Factories Act.

The number inspected totalled 39. Notices were served in connection with :—

Insufficient or defective sanitary accommodation (5), washing accommodation (1), choked drainage (1).

All Notices were complied with, with the exception of one in connection with sanitary accommodation outstanding at the end of the year.

(e) Camping Sites.

Frequent inspections have been made of the various licensed camping-grounds.

Five of the camping-grounds (including one owned by the Council) are only used by occupiers of caravans or tents who hire sites for various periods during the Summer season. All have adequate water supply and sanitation, and conditions have always been found satisfactory. Three of these camping-grounds have—due to the housing shortage—permanent occupiers of caravans all the year round.

There are also three organised Camps in the District in which the accommodation consists of chalets for sleeping, dining hall, recreation rooms, and many other amenities, such as dancing, tennis, etc., and at one camp a swimming pool. There is adequate sanitation, water supply and showers. All these organised Camps are very efficiently and admirably conducted, and judging from the every friendly atmosphere which is always so noticeable during visits of inspection all the Campers appear to be greatly benefiting from their stay.

Various Fields have been used by visiting Boy Scout Organisations. Before the last war the Troop concerned always notified the Department of their intention to use certain fields giving dates of arrival and departure. This was an admirable arrangement, and it is a great pity that it is still not carried out. Such information was very useful and enabled visits of inspection to be carried out, and the Camps are easily located.

A water sample taken from a private swimming-pool at a Holiday Camp was satisfactory.

(f) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

		INFESTED	DISINFESTED
(i) Council Houses	... ..	7	7
(ii) Other Houses	... ..	8	8

The methods employed are—(a) using “Cimex” blocks and Powder ; (b) spraying with “Zaldecide,” and (c) application of D.D.T. Powder.

(g) Rag Flock Act.

During the year a sample of flock was taken from mattresses which had been supplied by the Ministry of Health for evacuation purposes, and which were about to be sold. Such sample was submitted to the Public Analyst and he reported that the sample contained 116 parts per 100,000 Soluble Chlorine (Chlorides). This result complies with the Rag Flock Order No. 578 (1912).

(h) Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

In view of the additional and increased work in connection with this Act, it was found necessary to appoint an additional Rodent Operator, who commenced duties in October.

For the past few years the work of rat destruction at the Refuse Tip was undertaken by the War Agricultural Committee for an annual fee of £20. They have now given up this work for Local Authorities, and therefore each Local Authority is responsible for its own Refuse Tip in connection with rats.

Periodical visits have been paid to the Tip by the Rodent Operators, and satisfactory work has been carried out.

During the latter part of the year, the comprehensive work of dealing with the sewers was commenced, and at the end of the year was still in progress. Two treatments have to be given, and then approximately six months afterwards, a maintenance treatment. It will be appreciated that dealing with sewer man-holes is not an easy matter, and frequently it has not always been easy to find the manhole owing to it being covered with road surface. Approximately, 746 manholes have been dealt with, and so far 218 have been treated. Some portions of the sewers, especially in the centre of the Town, were found to be badly infested.

In connection with Private and Business premises, 1,970 visits have been paid and 2,803 rats and 227 mice were killed.

No charge is made for work at private premises, but only business premises.

The Rodent Operators are carrying out their work very satisfactorily.

(4) Schools.

There have been no changes in water supply and sanitary arrangements. Water, washing, and special sanitary conveniences at the Nursery Schools in the District have been inspected and found satisfactory and adequate. The early training in personal cleanliness is by no means the least of the benefits given by Nursery Schools.

Section D

HOUSING

1—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under The Public Health Act or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	320
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose						475
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the Sub-Head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	64
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...		1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	219

2—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 209

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of The Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1)—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs 2
 - (2)—Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—
 - (a) By Owners 2
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners... 0
- (b)—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—
 - (1)—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 8
 - (2)—Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—
 - (a) By Owners 8
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... 0
- (c)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
 - (1)—Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 0
 - (2)—Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 0
- (d)—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—
 - (1)—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... 1
 - (2)—Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit 0

4—Housing Act 1936 : Part IV : Overcrowding.

- (a) (1) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report

Summary and Observations :—

It is still not possible to give accurate figures under Section 4 of this table, because from information received at interviews of the applicants for Council houses, or accommodation in requisitioned houses, it appears that the number in the houses they are occupying is far more than the permitted number ; but under existing conditions, until a large number of houses are built by the Council, or by private enterprise, the problem will not be solved.

The Housing situation has not become easier, and it is very difficult to see what prospects, if any, a very large number on the Council's waiting-list have of obtaining accommodation for some considerable time.

During the year, 320 houses were inspected (167 under the Public Health Acts and 153 under the Housing Act).

Notices served to remedy defects were as follows :—

			VERBAL.	INTIMATION.	STATUTORY.	TOTAL
Housing Act	...	...	0	52	2	54
Public Health Act	...	...	30	137	8	175
			30	189	10	229

It is very pleasing to record, especially in view of labour and material difficulties, that of the 229 found not to be in all respects reasonably fit, 209 were rendered fit in consequence to informal action, and that it was only found necessary to serve 10 Notices under Statutory Powers, all of which were complied with.

Fifty-two houses were measured to ascertain their permitted number.

One Closing Order was made during the year.

Mr. F. J. Thick reports :—

In reference to applications for Council houses, I, as the responsible Officer, interview several applicants each day, and hear of the very distressing conditions under which they are living, many families living and sleeping in one room ; three or four mothers taking their turn to cook at one gas stove, no proper facilities for drying their children's clothes, children of mixed sexes having to sleep in the same bed, children not getting sufficient sleep, especially when the Breadwinner has to go to work very early, which affects the child at school through lack of proper rest, and, of course, last but not least, the trouble with in-Laws.

Under all these difficult conditions, it is the poor unfortunate mother who has to bear the brunt of it all, because she is meeting them all day and every day, and it is extraordinary how they keep so cheerful.

I know it is a pious hope, but if only it were possible to build a large number of Council houses, and also for private enterprise to be allowed to build to let, the future for these applicants would be much rosier. Here's to the Day!

Complaints.

Two hundred and eighty-five complaints were received and investigated during the year.

Section E
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a)—**Milk Supply.** Visits have been paid to Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of Cowkeepers or Dairymen on Register at end of year	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
Number registered as Producer-Retailer	...	...					5
Number registered as Producer-Wholesaler	...	...					11
Number registered as Retailer only	...	...	...				33
Number registered as Producer-Wholesaler-Retailer...							2

Cleanliness and Bacteriological Examinations.

Seventeen samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist. The results for cleanliness are as follows:—

Pass ... 7. Failed ... 10.

	From Local Producers.		From Local Retailers obtaining Milk from Local Producers.		From Local Retailers obtaining Milk from outside Producers.		From Retailers outside the District	
	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Cleanliness (Methylene Blue Test)	6	8	—	—	1	1	—	—
Bacteriological Failures (B. Coli Test of the above)	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)

In addition, and not included above, 14 samples were examined for Tubercle Bacillus; these were from farms all within the Urban District. Eleven of these samples were negative. Three tests were inconclusive.

National Milk-Testing and Advisory Scheme.

A Sampling Officer, appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and acting under the supervision of the Principal of Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, where the testing is carried out, has taken the following samples during the year :—

Passed “ A ” ... 819 Passed “ B ” ... 217 Passed “ C ” ... 175
Total ... 1,211

“ A ”—Indicates “ Satisfactory ” Milk.

“ B ”—Indicates “ Doubtful ” Milk.

“ C ”—Indicates “ Unsatisfactory ” Milk.

With reference to the above tests, which are for “ keeping ” quality, it will be appreciated that the results in winter time (cold weather period) are generally very much better than those obtained during the summer months.

(b)—Meat and other Foods.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—There are two slaughter houses in the District—one Private (Registered), situated at Crown and Anchor Arch; and one Public, at Luscombe Road. Both are used by the Ministry of Food as slaughtering centres for Paignton and certain surrounding districts.

The Private slaughter house, in structure, arrangements, area and situation, has long since ceased to be commendable.

The following Table shows the number of animals killed during the year at the slaughter house at Crown and Anchor (Registered) and Public slaughter house, Luscombe Road :—

					SHEEP and		
Registered	CATTLE	COWS	PIGS	CALVES	LAMBS	GOATS	Ttl.
Slaughter							
House ...	876	552	2	658	4521	2	6613
Public							
Slaughter							
House ...	498	371	38	35	6892	0	7834
Meat Depot	0	1	0	38	86	0	125
	1374	924	40	731	11499	2	14572

In addition, carcasses imported into the District have also been inspected at the Meat Depot and Butchers' Shops.

UNSOUND FOOD

Tables showing details of Meat and Offals condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption :—

Carcases Inspected and Destroyed :—

	CATTLE (exclg. Cows)	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ...	1374	924	731	11499	40
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned ...	5	8	8	45	5
Carcases of which some part of or- gan was con- demned ...	412	332	6	499	0
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	30.35%	36.79%	1.91%	4.73%	11.25%
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	11	25	2	0	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	131	170	3	0	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	10.33%	21.10%	0.68%	0	22.5%

	TUBERCULOSIS lbs.	OTHER DISEASES AND CONDITIONS. lbs.	TOTAL lbs.
Beef ...	22,111	5,972	28,483
Pork ...	643	210	853
Mutton ...	—	2,369½	2,369½
Veal ...	257	527	784
Offals ...	7,455	12,954½	20,409½
	30,866	22,033	52,899

In analysing the above figures, and comparing those for 1945, it will be observed that although only 65 more bullocks were killed there is an increase of Generalised T.B. (whole carcase) from 6 in 1945 to 11 in 1946 ; and, despite a decrease of 171 cows killed than in 1945 the increase of T.B. was from 15 in 1945 to 25 in 1946. There is also a noticeable increase in condemnation in parts of carcase or offal for cattle and cows.

The following Table is of interest :

		CATTLE.	COWS.	CATTLE (whole carcase con- demned).	COWS. (whole carcase con- demned).	CATTLE (Part)	COWS (Part)
1943	...	1595	1117	4	13	90	69
1944	...	1418	1035	15	13	105	94
1945	...	1309	1095	6	15	98	86
1946	...	1374	924	11	25	131	170

In the case of whole carcases of cattle, cows, or calves condemned as being unfit, with Generalised T.B., a report is made to the Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Disease Division.

In addition to the above condemned food, 359lbs. of beef was condemned at Butchers' shops, the majority for bone taint.

OTHER UNSOUND FOOD DESTROYED

The following other unsound Foods have also been destroyed :—

458 tins meat	1 tin spaghetti
63 tins salmon	3 tins pears
3 tins crayfish	1 tin peaches
2 tins brislings	14 tins plums
23 tins sardines	11 tins apricots
88 tins pilchards	28 tins blackberries
29 tins soup	3 tins greengages
32 tins M. & V. Ration	9½lbs. sausage meat
1 tin sausages	93lbs. poultry
4 tins Irish stew	19lbs. bacon
2 tins steak and kidney	12lbs. sausages
2 tins macaroni savoury	50½ stone fish
2 tins beans in tomato	436lbs. bread
63 tins peas	126½ lbs. cheese
96 tins beans	5½lbs. butter
1 tin potatoes	40½lbs. lard
7 tins beetroot	56lbs. tomatoes
7 tins tomatoes	831lbs. oranges
9 tins vegetables	50lbs. sultanas
11 tins carrots	69½lbs. dates
185 tins evaporated milk	3½lbs. raisins
1 tin skimmed milk	171½lbs. sweets
1 tin golden syrup	7 gallons apricots
4 tins marmalade	1 packet " All-Bran "
2 tins plum jam	1 packet Shredded Wheat

Food Premises.

Twenty-eight visits have been paid to other food premises (bake-houses, cafés, fishmongers, ice cream premises) where food is prepared for sale.

Ice Cream.

Sixteen samples of ice cream were taken during the year, and analysed by the County Bacteriologist. Reports generally were not satisfactory, but it must be recognised that this sampling of ice cream is a new procedure, and is still in the stages of investigation and experiment. It may be that the test is not the most suitable for the product, that the expected results of the tests are too severe—of too high a standard—and that a fixed stage in production for taking samples along with pre-sampling of certain basic ingredients will have to be tried.

At present, then, there is no need for alarm at these results, so long as we can see to it that our local manufacturers are observing personal and general cleanliness in the process, and manufacturing in hygienic premises.

Section F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Prevalence.

The continued absence of diphtheria has now proved the value of Immunisation.

Scarlet Fever, showing a further decrease, was again in a mild form.

Whooping-cough infection was not severe. There was almost complete immunity to Measles following the epidemic of 1945.

DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.
Smallpox	0	0
Scarlet Fever	10	7
Diphtheria	1	1
Enteric Fever (Including Paratyphoid)	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	0
Pneumonia	8	0
Erysipelas	0	0
Dysentery	0	0
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	2
Measles	6	1
Whooping Cough	27	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	0

Cases Treated in Hospital.

The "M and B" drugs caused complete recovery in the only two cases of Meningitis admitted.

Investigation.

Fifteen notifiable cases were investigated during the year, and enquiries were made as to possible source of infection.

Removal by Ambulance.

Fourteen cases from Paignton and twelve from other Districts were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL

Total number of cases, 25 :—Males, 14 ; Females, 11.

DISEASE.	PAIGNTON	BRIXHAM	DARTMOUTH	KINGSBRIDGE R.D.C.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	2	6	3
Diphtheria ...	1	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	0	0	0
Measles ...	1	0	0	0
Paratyphoid ...	1	0	0	0
Observations ...	2	0	0	0
TOTALS ...	14	2	6	3

I. FREEMAN, Matron.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Personal letter and children's birthday card appeals were made to parents of younger children.

Three hundred and seventy-nine children, aged 1 to 5 years, were protected, and our sincere thanks are due to Dr. Muriel Morris, who has carried out 126 of these immunisations at the Welfare Centre.

Seventy-nine children in the 5 to 15 years age group were also completed.

One hundred and five children, aged 1 to 5 years, were completed by Private Practitioners.

The prophylactic used, in all cases, was Alum Precipitated Toxoid in two doses of 0.3 to 0.4 cc. There have been no ill-effects reported to me.

OUT-PATIENT (CLEANSING) CLINIC FOR SCABIES

Scabies, Skin and Verminous Conditions.

At the Out-Patient Cleansing Clinic, Midvale Road, 63 children and 17 adults were treated. This treatment continues to be carried out most satisfactorily by Mrs. E. Russell, the Assistant Nurse Helper of Devon County Council.

The Urban District pay a proportion of the cost of the Clinic for the above purpose.

VACCINATION OFFICER'S REPORT

Vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	...	227
Objections signed	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Postponed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Left District	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

WM. ROSSITER, Vaccination Officer.

I again thank the Vaccination Officer for the above Return. The small number of vaccinations is regrettable.

The arrangements for the following-up of Smallpox contacts are unchanged. Thirty-five persons (arrivals by ship and aircraft) were kept under surveillance.

TUBERCULOSIS — NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2—5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6—10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11—15	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0
16—20	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
21—25	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
26—35	3	4	0	0	1	2	0	0
36—45	2	2	0	1	2	2	0	0
46—55	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
56—65	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
66 upwards ...	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TOTALS ...	17	11	2	1	6	4	2	1

A note is taken of new cases and enquiry made in view of any possible connection, which they might have with milk, food, or other means of spreading infection. Several such cases have been investigated and advice given on the adoption of precautions.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF BILLETING OFFICER, 1946

Evacuation.

The number of persons billeted in Paignton on 1st January, 1946, was, as follows :—

Unaccompanied children	...	...	...	...	17
Accompanied children	...	...	...	...	50
Mothers	...	...	...	...	18
Adults	...	...	...	...	1
Helpers	...	...	...	...	1

Those who remained in the Town at 31st December, 1946 :—

Unaccompanied children	...	...	...	...	6
Accompanied children	...	...	...	...	11
Mothers	...	...	...	...	5
Adults	...	...	...	...	3

FREDK. J. THICK,

Chief Billeting Officer.

